

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.
WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 1862.

From the Richmond papers, reports brought verily from Richmond, and indeed from the general appearance of things, we have been prepared to hear at any moment that a great battle had been fought either in Orange or Culpeper counties, Va., between the Confederate forces under Generals Lee and Jackson, and the Federals under Pope. We have as yet looked in vain for the account of this great expected battle.

It is evident that the enemy is concentrating his forces on the line of the Rapidan and Rappahannock in numbers which he trusts will be overwhelming, and this movement no doubt accounts for that indicated in the following despatch to Gov. Letcher, of Va.:

NASHVILL, NEAR DUBLIN, Aug. 19th.
To Governor Letcher—
We have reliable intelligence that the enemy has left Beck's Ferry, Meadow Bluff and Flat Top, and the impression is that they are evacuating Western Virginia.

R. H. CATBERT.
They will certainly have a very heavy force in our front, especially if the report be true that McClellan's whole force has left Berkeley. The "On to Richmond" is about to commence on the old line.

When the great battle is to be fought is impossible to say, but one would be apt to suppose that the sooner it was fought, the better for us.

THE WEST.—Within the last two days we have heard directly and verily from General Bragg's Department, and are pleased to find that the accounts of the two gentlemen, one of whom we saw, and the other of whom a friend saw passing through, agree in representing affairs in that Department as bright and brightening for our cause. Of course there is talk, but not by these gentlemen—there is talk of cutting off and "bagging" Buell's army, and the other man's army. To these things we assign little weight. It would appear, however, to be certain that Buell's position is highly precarious, and will soon be untenable; and that in the event, now almost certain, of his being compelled to retreat, he will have a hard road to travel, and will not be able to stop short either at Nashville nor any other point in Tennessee.

General Bragg is certainly in good spirits, and of the opinion that "things are working" even more favorably "than could have been expected."

FROM THE COAST.—We have little additional information in reference to the doings of the invaders in the vicinity of Swansboro, Onslow county. All the accounts we have received within the last day or two seem to concur in representing their force there as much smaller, indicating a return to Newbern, after having accomplished the present purpose of their predatory raid in the destruction of the salt works there.

P. S. Since writing the above we have received positive information of the enemy's having evacuated Swansboro, "going eastward," which would indicate a return to Beaufort and Port Macon.

Congressional.
On Tuesday the Senate postponed until Monday the consideration of Mr. Yancy's proposition to restrict the frequency of secret sessions. Portions of the President's Message were referred to the appropriate standing committees.

In the House the rules were so amended as to provide against resolving into secret session, except by a majority vote of the member present.

For Wednesday's proceedings see telegraph.

We learn that a large Yankee Steamer had left at the banks opposite the Sound at Scott's Hill, having a light burning, apparently as a signal. The blockade has heretofore been in the habit of running up and down the coast in the day-time, looking in at Topsail and the other islets. This is the first time that any of the enemy's vessels has come to an anchor or laid off any particular point on the Sound at night. The light might very well be accounted for as a decoy signal for negroes.—Daily Journal, 21st.

WE FEAR that the good name of the people of Maryland may suffer some unmerited loss by reason of the number of secessions going about through the Confederate States passing themselves off, no doubt untrue, as Maryland refugees, former members of the first Maryland regiment, etc. Or if they are refugees, they are refugees for other cause than patriotic ones.

The fact is, no doubt, that the name of Maryland refugee, an honored one, has been too often taken by scoundrels from all the States north of Virginia, as affording the most convenient and plausible way of accounting for themselves. An instance of this is afforded in the case of the party of one woman and four men who were taken up a few days since at Kingsville for robbing the hotel there. They all hailed from Baltimore, according to the Columbia Carolinian says they had a most Yankeeish appearance.

THE BOSTON POST says:—"Now that Gen. Hunter devotes most of his leisure moments to the negro schools, the Charleston Mercury has brought back its Hec press from the interior and flouts its bragging treason securely and regularly."

SOME time since the Federal War Department announced that although there were on the rolls drawing pay over 600,000 enlisted men, the number actually on duty did not exceed 263,000. On the other 250,000 comprised the wounded, sick, and absent on furlough. This was before the recent terrible battles.

NEAL DOW, the author of the Maine Liquor Law—now one of Abe's Brigadiers—has fallen from grace.—He got seduced by a mild julep in New Orleans, and he kept at it and it flung him "higher nor a kite."

Most folks, sweltering and thirsting, with the thermometer at unknown altitudes, would possibly be almost tempted to take a "slight chance"—"a few," so to speak, of the same, and therefore ought to make some allowance for Neal Dow. Verdict of the jury "excusable homicide."

A SMART WOMAN.—The Chattanooga Rebel says that Col. Boone, of Kentucky, was in command of the Federal forces at Gallatin, when Col. Jack Morgan made his morning call last week, and had not shaken off the drowsy god at the time of the demand for the surrender of his forces. Mrs. Boone, however, was more wide-awake, and aroused the sleeping Colonel by exclaiming: "I surrender, and so does the Colonel." Of course after that the Colonel had no more to say, but quietly calved in.

OUR private opinion is that last night we had a specimen of a tolerably extensive thunder and rain storm. We have heard so loud thunder and so heavy rain, but we hardly recollect anything louder or heavier.

Just about the precise minute when the rain was doing "its level best" the mail train on the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad arrived on the other side of the river. Perhaps the transfer of passengers and baggage was pleasant under the circumstances; but then again, perhaps it was not. We rather think it was not, as it had to be done pretty much under the canopy of heaven, and that canopy, for the time then being, seemed to be made out of a very wet blanket. We would suggest that there is very great room for improvement here and at Florence, which improvement we trust will be made as soon as circumstances will admit. We know that the present is not a favorable time. It is very bad at Florence, where three roads meet.

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The Congress of the Confederate States do resolve, That the said Benjamin F. Butler is hereby declared "Hostis humani generis," and as such is to be treated as an outlaw, and as a public enemy of the Confederate States of America, wherever and wherever they may find the said Benjamin F. Butler, they are authorized to seize him, and to detain him until he is sent to any citizen or soldier of the Confederate States is hereby extended to any citizen or subject of any foreign country whatever.

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The present mystery of the war is the whereabouts of McClellan. He has certainly "changed his base," but so secretly as to leave all our people for some time in the dark. He moved off very secretly by land, on Friday night, sending his heavy artillery and baggage by water. The latest estimate of his force is 50,000. Some think his object is to get between General Lee, (who, it is known, has gone up to Jackson) and Richmond, and thus cut off Lee's communications. It would be a dangerous move for us, but if we succeeded in whipping Pope, a fatal one for McClellan. We shall soon know, however, as the battle with Pope is hourly expected, and its result will compel all parties to show their hands. Some accounts say that McClellan has marched down towards Fortress Monroe.

Daily Journal, 22d inst.

FROM CURRENT TALK, and some personal observation, we are led to believe that a new Mosquito has been invented recently in these parts. Whether he has been patented or not we are unable to say, neither have we seen any of the drawings or specifications upon which the claim for a patent, or even the entering of a caveat could be based.

What is claimed as original in this mosquito is the power he has of screwing his bill into the person operated upon, so that if the victim wishes to remove him, he must unscrew him, otherwise the sting will be left in, to the great irritation of the cuticle. He has also the peculiarity attributed to that Mexican bird known as the Rhamphophoebe, who sticks his bill in the ground and whistles through his spurs. This mosquito, while screwing in his bill, and after it is screwed in, sings Yankee Doodle, and other anti-Confederate airs through his hind legs. So we have been informed and most potently believe. It on the other hand he were operating on a Federal privateer, no doubt the victim would fancy himself listening to Dixie and other rebel melodies. He gives two to ten turns to the screw, according to size, age and wickedness.

A FORTHCOMING MEDICAL WORK.
It will be seen by notice in another column, that Dr. EDWARD WARREN, a distinguished member of the Medical profession in this State is preparing for publication a work entitled "Surgery for Camp, Field and Hospital," embracing a complete digest of the most important facts and principles of each department of the science up to the present time.

Dr. Warren's known ability, professional standing and skill, leave little ground to doubt the value of the work which he proposes to publish.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCES.—Future Intervention.
It is reported in the last advices from Europe that the Emperor of Russia and France together with the King of Prussia are to have a conference about the middle of September. The precise point of meeting has not yet been announced, and speculation is even more in the dark with reference to the matters which will most probably engage the attention of the potentates. Whether they will try and fix up the vexed questions regarding Italy, or the Turkish question, or the German complication, or come to some understanding as to their future course with reference to the difficulties in this country remains to be seen. It is more than probable that in the approaching imperial and royal conferences we have no direct interest, no interest at all, indeed, so far as the war in which we are now engaged is concerned. Remember we do not say that the time may not come when foreign powers will interfere their offices, whether good or bad. We think that time must come, and perhaps it will come soon enough, too soon for us, unless we have beforehand substantially rendered ourselves independent of it. Foreign intervention would not make us independent nor even help to secure our independence except in an indirect way, but it might do this. It might be the only chance for putting an end to the most sanguinary and destructive war, for it is not to be denied that the present war is rapidly passing beyond the control of those engaged in its management—the passions of the people on both sides are becoming deeply and implacably aroused; and of themselves, with no common ground upon which to meet, it is impossible to see when or how peace can be restored between them.

Adjusted. Our telegraphic dispatches yesterday gave the substance of everything of importance that was done in either house on Wednesday. As we find the proceedings in the Richmond papers of yesterday, they show that the only thing in the Senate was some remarks by Mr. Brown, of Miss., directing the attention of the Military Committee to the abuses of the substitute system. He thought that Yankee spies had engaged themselves as substitutes, got the money and